## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 05335 031959Z ACTION SIG-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 H-01 SS-15 L-03 /040 W

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PR 031522Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5749 INFO USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL MONROVIA 5335

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CARTER FROM CHARGE

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, LI

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING ALLEGED EXPROPRIATION OF THE

LIBERIA REFINING COMPANY (LRC)

REF: A) STATE 180083, B) MONROVIA 5091

1. EMBASSY HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH RAISING WITH GOVT. OF LIBERIA (GOL) MATTER OF CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING ALLEGED EXPROPRIATION OF LIBERIA REFINING COMPANY (LRC). PRESIDENT TOLBERT PERSONALLY INSTRUCTED FINANCE MINISTER PHILLIPS TO KEEP US FULLY BRIEFED ON THE GOL VIEWS AND MOVES WITH REGARD TO THE LRC PROBLEM AND OUR MEETINGS WITH PHILLIPS AND, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER PADMORE, HAVE BEEN OPEN AND FRANK. WE DO SUGGEST THAT FOR THE TIME BEING ANY APPROACH BE LIMITED TO PHILLIPS, RESERVING AN APPROACH TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT, IF NECESSARY, FOR A LATER DATE.

2. WE ALSO WONDER IF IT WOULD BE EITHER NECESSARY OR PRODUCTIVE TO URGE THE GOL TO PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO FIND A SOLUTION SINCE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD ONLY RECENTLY THAT THAT IS WHAT IT IS DOING (REFTEL B). ON THE OTHER HAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITHOUR CONTACTS WITH GOL ON THIS ISSUE TO SHARE THAT THE MATTER IS BECOMING A DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITH POTENTIALLY SERIOUS OVERTONES. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS INFORMATION COULD BE CONVEYED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID IT BEING INTERPRETED AS A THREAT, PARTICULARLY SINCE GOL OFFICIALS ARE FULLY AWARE OF U.S. LAWS

(HICKENLOOPER, ETC) ON SUBJECT OF EXPROPRIATION.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT. CALL IN AMBASSADOR DENNIS (OR COUSEOR BULL) TO BRIEF HIM ON SUBJECT MATTER, IF THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KEEP GOL INFORMED AT ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER. HORAN

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, PETROLEUM REFINING, ALLEGATIONS

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
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Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING ALLEGED EXPROPRIATION OF THE LIBERIA REFINING COMPANY (LRC) TAGS: EINV, ENRG, LI, LRC

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